



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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USDA TO HOLD NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING IN MAINE

WASHINGTON, April 21, 2008--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will hold a meeting of the general conference committee of the national poultry improvement plan (NPIP) on June 5, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Meetings of the biennial conference, including NPIP delegates, also will take place on June 6, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 7, from 8 a.m. to noon. The meetings will take place at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks, 200 Sable Oaks Drive, South Portland, Maine.

The general conference committee serves as the liaison between the poultry industry and USDA in matters pertaining to poultry health. In addition, the committee assists USDA in planning, organizing and conducting the NPIP biennial conference.

Topics for discussion at the upcoming meeting include:

- H5/H7 low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) program for commercial layers, broilers and turkeys;
- Compartmentalization of notifiable avian influenza free zones;
- H5/H7 LPAI program for raised-for-release upland gamebird flocks;
- Evaluation of rapid detection assays for Salmonella; and
- Evaluation of antigen detection assays for avian influenza.

Due to time limitations of the meeting, public comment will be accepted only through written statements filed with the committee at the meeting, or mailed to Andrew R. Rhorer, senior coordinator, NPIP, USDA, APHIS, VS, 1498 Klondike Road, Suite 101, Conyers, GA 30094. Refer to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0040 when submitting statements.

Notice of the meeting was published in the April 18 *Federal Register*.

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